

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 1700  
PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 10993.0261**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Tomotaka Hashimoto et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1797  
Application No.: 10/561,182 ) Examiner: Sun U. Kim  
Filed: December 16, 2005 ) Confirmation No.: 1709  
For: Membrane Cartridge, Membrane ) **Mail Stop AF**  
Separating Device, and Membrane )  
Separating Method )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This reply is filed in response to the final Office Action mailed December 4, 2008.